

Message Text

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52

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 AID-20 CCO-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 RSR-01 /136 W

----- 020776

O R 261201 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3252

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL FRANCE

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

CDRUSMACV

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

DEPCDR 7/13 AF

CDR 7 TH RRFS RAMASUN THAI

CDR 7 ACCS KORAT

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECATS BKK

56 SOW NKP

432 TRW UDORN

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CDR JCRC NKP
ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA/ AIRA SVK LAOS
C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2228

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; MACV FOR COMMAND CENTER AND J3 08;
7/13 AF, 432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR J2
AND PAO.

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - MARCH 26

: VIENTIANE 2192

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY: TWO- DAY PERIOD 23-25 MARCH SAW CONTINUED
LOW LEVEL OF GROUND AND AIR ACTION. FIGHTING PERSISTED IN TWO
AREAS OF SOUTH LAOS-- THAKHEK AND KHONG SEDONE. ONE MAJOR INCIDENT
OCCURRED SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK, AS DID SIX MINOR CLASHES. ELSE-
WHERE THERE WERE 12 SCATTERED MINOR CONTACTS. RLAF FLEW TWO- DAY
TOTAL OF 16 T-28 SORTIES, NEARLY ALL IN SUPPORT OF FIGHTING
TROOPS. REPORTED ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES ROSE TO 307 ROUNDS,
MAINLY IN THAKHEK AREA, BUT ALSO INCLUDING 15 ROUNDS NEAR
PAKSONG FOR " PRACTICE. " POLITICAL - RLG/ LPF POLITICAL RESEARCH
GROUP MET MARCH 26, WITH NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS REPORTED. LPF
REP ANNOUNCED THAT NEGOTIATOR PHOUN SIPRASEUTH MIGHT RETURN TO
VIENTIANE MARCH 27. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE, MARCH
22, SUGGESTS PRIMIN CALL EXTRAORDINARY SESSION TO DISCUSS
VIENTIANE AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. SECTION I - CEASEFIRE OBSERVANCE

A. MR I: ONLY GROUND ACTION DURING WEEKEND WAS SMALL ENEMY PROBE
OF OUTPOST WELL NORTHEAST OF LUANG PRABANG ON 25 MARCH; FRIENDS
WITHDREW WITH ONE KIA AND TWO MIA. RLAF FLEW NO SORTIES. ELEVEN-
TRUCK CONVOY TRAVELED ROUTE 13 FROM VIENTIANE TO LUANG PRABANG
WITHOUT INCIDENT.

B. MR II: ONLY GROUND ACTIVITY WAS LIGHT SHELLING OF TWO BOUAM
LONG OUTPOSTS NORTH OF PDJ ON 25 MARCH (NO CASUALTIES).
RLAF FLEW NO SORTIES.

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C. MR III: ONLY MAJOR INCIDENT IN COUNTRY OCCURRED AFTERNOON

24 MARCH (0845 Z) WHEN ENEMY- INITIATED COMPANY- SIZE CLASH, ACCOMPANIED BY 140- ROUND MORTAR ATTACK, TOOK PLACE APPROX 25 KM SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK (VE 995075); FRIENDS HELD (ONE FRIENDLY WIA, TWO ENEMY KIA, ESTIMATED NINE WIA). THERE WERE ALSO SIX MINOR CLASHES IN AREA 22-40 KM SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK (FOUR ON 23 AND TWO TN 25 MARCH) AND ONE ABOUT 15 KM SOUTH OF THAKHEK (25 MARCH). TOTAL RESULTS WERE ONE FRIENDLY KIA, TWO ENEMY KIA AND TWO WIA. ELSEWHERE, THERE WERE TWO MINOR CLASHES WELL EAST OF KENGKOK ON 22 MARCH (THREE ENEMY KIA, FIVE WIA) AND ONE MINOR CLASH WELL SOUTHEAST OF KENGKOK ON 23 MARCH (THREE ENEMY KIA, TWO WIA). RLAF FLEW SIX T-28 AND TWO AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIES FROM EVENING 23 THROUGH DAY 25 MARCH, ALL IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT IN FOREGOING AREAS (ONE SECONDARY EXPLOSION).

D. MR IV: THERE WERE ONLY FIVE MINOR CLASHES DURING WEEKEND: THREE IN VICINITY OF CONTESTED VILLAGES APPROX 35 KM NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE, TWO ON 24 AND ONE ON 25 MARCH (ESTIMATED FIVE ENEMY CASUALTIES); TWO WELL SOUTHEAST OF SOUKHOUMA, ONE ON 24 AND ONE ON 25 MARCH (ONE FRIENDLY KIA, SIX WIA, TWO ENEMY KIA, TWO WIA). RLAF FLEW FOUR T-28 SORTIES ON 24 MARCH AND ONE AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIE DURING NIGHT 24-25 MARCH, ALL IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE.

E. MR V: ONLY GROUND ACTION WAS PTROL CLASH APPROX 85 KM NORTH- WEST OF VIENTIANE ON 23 MARCH (ONE FRIENDLY WIA). RLAF FLEW SIX T-28 SORTIES OCG24 MARCH: THREE HIT ENEMY TROOPS NEAR FORE- GOING CLASH SITE AND THREE STRUCK TRUCK AND BUNKERS WELL EAST OF SALA PHOU KHOUN, IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF CEASEFIRE (NO SIGNI- FICANT RESULTS). ALSO, ONE AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIE WAS FLOWN DURING NIGHT 23-24 MARCH IN SUPPORT OF ABOVE CLASH.

2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION

A. ON MARCH 26, RLG/ LPF POLITICAL RESEARCH GROUP MET AND DISCUSSED, WITHOUT MAKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS, NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG AND FORMATION OF THE JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL. THE MILITARY RESEARCH GROUP DID NOT MEET. AFTER THE POLITICAL GROUP MEETING, LPF DELEGATION SPOKES- MAN SAID THAT PHOUN SIPRASEUTH WILL PROBABLY RETURN TO VIENTIANE MARCH 27 VIA ICC AIRCRAFT; BUT HE COULD NOT INDICATE WHEN PHOUMI VONGVICHIT WILL RETURN.

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B. AT ITS MEETING MARCH 22 (VIENTIANE 2153), THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY AUTHORIZED ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT PHOUI SANANIKONE TO SUGGEST IN HIS LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA THAT THE PRIMIN CALL A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE

ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT.

GODLEY

#2228

NNN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, PINS, PINT, LA
To: CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
EA
STATE INFO BANGKOK
DOD
JAKARTA
MULTIPLE

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